Luxury Kauai Garden Tour with Dr. McDougall

Kauai is known as “The Garden Isle” for its tropical rainforests, fertile valleys and lush flora; it is not surprising to find some of the world’s most beautiful gardens there. This tour includes three of the nation’s five National Tropical Botanical Gardens along with other spectacular gardens and farms. [http://ntbg.org/tours/kauai-south](http://ntbg.org/tours/kauai-south)

This is an ALL INCLUSIVE tour: Lodging at the oceanfront Sheraton Poipu Beach Resort, transportation, gourmet plant based meals by master chef, one daily lecture by world famous physician, Dr. John McDougall, who has specialized in the use of a whole food, plant based diet to prevent and treat chronic disease.

LIMITED SPACE Reserve early

Trip Price: $4520-$4760 not including airfare

Discount of $200 signed up before June 30, 2016

Additional $100 discount SDHS members

Dates: January 28 to Feb 4, 2017

For more information: www.drmcdougall.com/health/travel/kauai
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San Diego Horticultural Society

OUR MISSION is to inspire and educate the people of San Diego County to grow and enjoy plants, and to create beautiful, environmentally responsible gardens and landscapes.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
Renewal information is at www.sdhort.org. For questions contact membership@sdhort.org or call Cindy Benoit at 760-473-4244.

MEETING SCHEDULE
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display
6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

MEETINGS & EVENTS
June 3 – July 4 San Diego County Fair – to volunteer see page 2
July 11 Horticultural Evening at the San Diego Zoo
August 8 Bill Toone on Roar of the Monarch Butterfly
September 12 Jeff Moore on his new book, ALOES AND AGAVES
October 10 Brian Kemble on the Ruth Bancroft garden
November 14 Greg Rubin & Lucy Warren on their new book, THE DROUGHT-DEFYING CALIFORNIA GARDEN

www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: The African Tulip Tree is one of the many lovely and water-thrifty plants you’ll see in the SDHS display garden at the Fair. Details on pages 3 and 8.

SPECIAL EVENT: SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens
Plus 2016 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation
Monday, June 13, 5:30 – 7:45 PM, Presentation 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Flower & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds
FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members! Guests, $15 at the door

Enjoy a private night at the San Diego County Fair’s Flower & Garden Show! The Fair will be closed to the public, and SDHS members and guests can stroll at leisure, viewing the SDHS’s waterwise exhibit of South African plants, plus lovely garden show displays created by some of our finest garden professionals.

No-host bar: beer, wine, sodas and water. Free celebratory cake!
At 6:00 p.m., at the Flower & Garden Show Stage, SDHS President Jim Bishop will present the 2016 Horticulturist of the Year Award to the San Diego Zoo Horticulture Department - past and present.
Full details at sdhort.org
Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show
2016 Stage Schedule

Daily: Wine Tasting: 4:00 pm & 5:00 pm (except June 3, 11, 26) & Live Music: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Fri. June 3
Opening Day

Sat. June 4
Tree Care in San Diego
1:30 pm Proper Pruning Do’s and Don’ts / Professional Tree Care Association - Kurt Peacock
2:30 pm Learn How Money Grows on Trees / ISA Certified Arborist - Robin Rivet

Sun. June 5
Floral Speakers
1:30 pm Things to Know When Hiring Your Wedding DJ - Jerry Beck
2:30 pm A Few Props Can Make Your Wedding Happy Ever After - Janette Hernandez

Wed. June 8
Landscape Water Conservation
1:30 pm WaterSmart Landscapes / SD County Water Authority - Joni German
2:30 pm Landscapes ~ “San Diego Style” / Water Conservation Specialist - Jan Tubiolo

Thurs. June 9
Floral Speakers
1:30 pm A Very Important Date: Bouquets Inspired by the Story of Alice - Jamie Kales
2:30 pm Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces - Jennifer Pelham

Fri. June 10
Benefits of Birds and Bees
1:30 pm The Story of Honey Bees in So. Cal / SD Bee Keepers Society - Eric Robinson
2:30 pm Birdhouses and Habitat / UCCE Master Gardener - Marcia Van Loy

Sat. June 11
Toast of the Coast Wine Festival
Taste more than 100 award-winning wines from our 2016 Wine Competition. Tickets and information available at thetoastofthecoast.com

Sun. June 12
Ikebana Day
10am Jackie Zhang & Ikebana Floral Speakers

Wed. June 15
Edible Gardens
1:30 pm You Say Tomaatoe, I Say Tomatoe / Sunshine Care - Roy Wilburn
and Tomato Queen - Karan Cooper Greenwald

Thurs. June 16
Floral Speakers
1:30 pm 1 Husband, 1 Dog & 200 Orchids - Barbara Conrad
2:30 pm Combine a Few Florist Flowers with Something from Your Garden for a Beautiful Bouquet - Darlene Karinen

Fri. June 17
Lawn Alternatives
1:30 pm The Perfect Landscaping Solution / SYNLawn - Jaime Wittert
2:30 pm Decorative Rock to Replace Your Lawn / RCP Block & Brick

Sat. June 18
San Diego Garden Authors
1:30 pm “Under the Spell of Succulents” / Solana Succulents - Jeff Moore
2:30 pm “Designing Drought Tolerant Gardens - The Thematic Approach” Landscape Designer and Horticultural Expert - Steve Harbour

Sun. June 19
7th Annual S.D. Floral Design Competition & Flower Festival
10:00am Floral Speaker David Root
### Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show 2016 Stage Schedule

**Daily: Wine Tasting 4:00 pm & 5:00 pm (except June 3, 11, 26) & Live Music 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. June 21</td>
<td><strong>Gardening For Kids</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 pm Fruit or Vegetable? A Hands-on Exploration of all the Delicious Parts of Edible Plants</td>
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<td>Leah's Pantry - Adrienne Markworth &amp; Jessica Sildorff</td>
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<td>2:30 pm Bugs in Your Garden! / UCCE Master Gardener - Carol Graham</td>
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<td>Wed. June 22</td>
<td><strong>Floral Speakers</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm Why You Need a Wedding Coordinator - Jacquelyn Mendoza</td>
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<td>2:30 pm The Benefits of Social Media to the Floral Industry - Noemi Garcia</td>
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<td>Thurs. June 23</td>
<td><strong>Floral Speakers</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 pm What Do I Do with that Bunch of Flowers I Just Bought? - Meredith Sinclair</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 pm Why Pollinator Gardens Are Important - Jim Bethe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. June 24</td>
<td><strong>Repurposing Ideas for Your Garden</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm Rethink Repurposing - Kicking Repurposing Up a Notch / Singing Gardens - Roxanne Kim Perez</td>
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<td>2:30 pm Turn Garden Junk into Succulent Art / UCCE Master Gardener - Laura Eubanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. June 25</td>
<td><strong>International Day</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 am International Entertainment / Balboa Park Cottages</td>
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<td>Sun. June 26</td>
<td><strong>My Big Fair Wedding Day</strong></td>
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<td>11:00- 5:00 pm Romance &amp; Weddings in the Garden</td>
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<td>Tue. June 28</td>
<td><strong>Composting in Your Garden</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 pm Composting With Worms / Solana Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 pm Composting 101 / Solana Center - Jennifer Galey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. June 29</td>
<td><strong>Floral Speakers</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm Turn a Get-Together into a Party with a Little Creativity - Janette Hernandez</td>
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<td>2:30 pm When Your Flowers Speak You Want Them to Say Something Elegant &amp; Graceful - Eleanor Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. June 30</td>
<td><strong>Gardening Organically</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 pm Worm Composting - Garbage to Gold! / Master Composter - Laura Malter</td>
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<td>2:30 pm The Lowdown on Good Dirt / UCCE Master Gardener - Cindy Sparks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. July 1</td>
<td><strong>Art For Your Garden</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm Art for You Garden - Create an Escape in Your Very Own Backyard / Backyard XScapes - Steve Raketic</td>
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<td>2:30 pm Garden Décor “Something for Everyone” / The Madd Potter - Stacey Sieber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. July 2</td>
<td><strong>Whole Life Festival</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 am Discover a holistic approach to a healthy lifestyle in this festival featuring local Farmers, products and services for body and soul</td>
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<td>4:30 pm Farm to Table Dinner – Tickets and information available at sdfair.com/wholelife</td>
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<td>Sun. July 3</td>
<td><strong>Floral Speakers</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm Seashore Discoveries - Wesley Farmer</td>
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<td>2:30 pm Garden Clubs: Come for the Education, Stay for the Friendship - George Speers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. July 4</td>
<td><strong>Stars, Stripes &amp; Stems</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm What it’s like to be a Spouse of Someone in the Military</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 pm Red, White &amp; Blue Floral Speaker</td>
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Fenestraria rhopalophylla

String-of-Pearls
(\textit{Senecio rowleyanus})

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is the Paul Ecke, Jr.
Flower and Garden Show's Theme!

“I command you to attend”

For more information visit
www.sdfair.com
Volunteers Needed

Garden Hosts Wanted for “Mad About The Fair 2016”
As in past years, we will need about 100 shifts covered by volunteers at our display garden at the 2016 San Diego County Fair. In exchange for about four hours of your time, you’ll get free admission to the Fair. No special knowledge needed. Volunteers will answer questions about our display garden and plants in general, and encourage interested folks to become members of SDHS. Sign up for a shift or two on our website (sdhort.org).

Tech Support Help at Meetings:
Do you have video and tech support skills, and also love to garden? We need a tech-savvy volunteer to help load speaker presentations onto a laptop prior to our monthly meeting, and to assist the speaker. Also, we are looking for an individual who can load past presentations onto the internet. Contact Jim Bishop: president@sdhort.org.

Looking for New Board Members
With 1,200+ members, there must be at least a dozen or so individuals willing to participate on the SDHS Board. Are you one of them? Is this your chance to get involved and share your talent and time? We have several key volunteer Board positions that need to be filled in order for our organization to thrive. If you have an interest and skills to offer for any of these positions, please apply using the automated form on the website: sdhort.org. It is fast and easy! (You just need to log into the website and follow the prompts for security.)

The open positions are:
• Vice President/ Program & Events
  Coordinates the Program and Events committees
• Vice President/ Membership
  Coordinates Membership and support activities
• Secretary
  Board meeting preparation and minutes
• Publicity/Marketing
  Media coverage, signage and electronic communications
• Newsletter Editor
  Oversees the development of newsletter content, layout and production.
  Coordinates advertising, calendar and sponsor inserts.
• Garden Tour Chair
  Plans and manages the annual Garden Tour
• Meeting Room Coordinator
  Oversees meeting room set-up and Plant vendor sales
• Member-At-Large (3 positions)

All positions serve a 3-year term, except for the members-at-large, who serve for 1 year. If you are new to the organization or to serving on a board, a member-at-large position may be just perfect for you. The board meets 6 times a year for about 2 hours each time, and this is an excellent opportunity to share your skills and to enhance the board’s expertise. Out-going officers will “orient” new officers on duties to ensure you have all the information you need.

Don’t wait! We need you now! Apply by July 31 on the website. In August, the current board will be electing from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee. The new officers take over in September. If you have any questions, please contact Princess Norman at 760 789-1342 or mtnpeak2@cox.net.

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?
SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website; discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just $100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhort.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10; look for “SDHS Sponsor” above their ads. We thank them for their support.
Horticulturist of the Year

On Monday, June 13th, at our “Night at the Fair” meeting we will honor the San Diego Zoo Horticulture Department - past and present as our Horticulturist(s) of the Year (see page 7). The Zoo celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. As you may recall, some of the current zoo horticulturists were our speakers at the March meeting, plus our July meeting will be a special event held at the San Diego Zoo. See page 7 for information about the zoo’s horticultural history. You may also learn about our previous twenty honorees online at sddhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year. The Fair is closed that day, so not only is parking free and easy, we will also have exclusive use of the outdoor garden exhibit area. There will be a no-host bar to add to the festivities of the evening. For details see page 1 and our website.

Wonderland – The San Diego County Fair

The San Diego Horticultural Society is committed to educating our members and the public through our projects, programs, events and documents on how to create a garden that is functional, beautiful, low maintenance, water-wise and, of course, filled with wonderful plants. Imagine the water, energy, monetary and time savings, not to mention the beauty, if everyone gardened appropriately for our climate and natural resources. Last year when I wrote the June column I remember thinking it highly improbable that we would have a 5th year of drought and another year of record warm weather. While the northern part of the state received average or above average rainfall, the southern half of the state received below average rainfall and had a record warm January and February. Yet people that live in much drier and warmer climates than ours create beautiful and functional gardens.

You can help educate the public and be part of our largest outreach program by volunteering to staff our exhibit. For volunteering as a Garden Host, you receive free entrance to the Fair in exchange for a few hours in either the morning or afternoon. Answer questions and talk to Fair patrons about our exhibit, water conservation, the San Diego County Water Authority and the Society, and then head off to enjoy all that the Fair has to offer. The Fair runs Friday, June 3 through Sunday, July 4. You may pick your shift and sign up on our website at www.sddhort.org.

Through the Looking Glass

Our garden exhibit at the San Diego County Fair this year ties in with several current themes. The garden design and installation is being led by Dave Ericson, with assistance from Linda Teague and Mary Friestedt. Inspired by Lewis Carroll’s classic novel Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, the theme for the Garden Show at this year’s County Fair is Wonderland. Entitled Through the Looking Glass, the San Diego Horticultural Society’s exhibit will be a play on this Wonderland theme, but also pay homage to Lewis Carroll’s sequel Through the Looking Glass, and When Alice Found There. With a climate and geography that mirrors that of Southern California, the garden will feature the Wonderland of Plants that originate from South Africa. For more information see page 8.

San Diego is at the 33° N latitude, whereas the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa is at the 34° S latitude and mirrors our location in the Southern Hemisphere. The South African climate and terrain are similar to Southern California’s, with a strong maritime influence at the coast with hills, mountains and plains, and deserts inland. The climate is Mediterranean, with wet winters and hot, dry summers. And like our own chaparral plant community, South Africa has evolved a similar shrubland community called fynbos. While the chaparral and fynbos plant communities have evolved to succeed in similar climates, the individual plants are entirely different. The fynbos biome, which makes up the majority of the area and plant life in the Cape floristic region, one of the six global floral kingdoms, is located in a region of the Western Cape, and contains more than 9,000 species, making it among the richest regions on earth in terms of plant diversity.

Among the many plants featured in the garden will be several in the genus Proteaceae. The genus Proteaceae was named in 1735 by Carl Linnaeus after the Greek god Proteus, who could change his form at will, because plants in the genus have such a wide variety of forms. This ties in nicely with a quote by Humpty Dumpty to Alice in Through the Looking-Glass, “With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost.”

You can learn more about Proteaceae and the importance of water at our Fair exhibit. The garden demonstrates many water conservation ideas that also work in our home gardens. From the plant choices to the hardscape, the garden will inspire Southern Californians and show how they can have wonderful outdoor garden spaces without a lawn. In keeping with the water conservation theme, we are again this year sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority (see ad on the inside back cover for more information about SDWPCA and their programs), and we thank them for their generosity. SDHS volunteers who staff our garden will be distributing SDWPCA handouts about water conservation and their programs.

Californians have become accustomed to growing many plants from this region that so easily adapt to Southern California, but many people are unaware of their plants’ South African origins. Our garden will showcase the South African plants that homeowners can so easily grow here, put together in a colorful and inspiring garden setting. Some examples of the more commonly used garden plants from the region are (final plants list to be determined):

- **Flowering Garden Plants and ground covers**: Pelargoniums, Clivias, Lampranthus species (Ice plants), Gazanias, Arctotis, Nemesias, Dymondia, Plectranthus, Agapanthus, Bulbine, Dietes (Fornight Lilies), Euryops, Kniphofia
- **Shrubs**: Salvia africana-lutea, Proteas, Leucadendrons (cone flowers), Leucospermmum (pincushion flowers), Restios (grass-like plants), Erica, Leonotis leonurus (Lion’s Tail), Asparagus densiflorus ‘Myers’ (Foxtail Fern), Coleonemas (Breath of Heaven), Cyacdas, Carissias (nataal plum), Helichrysums, Hymenolepis (Coulter Bush), Melianthus major (honey bush), Myrsine (African boxwood), Polygalas (butterfly sweet pea bush), Plumbagos, and Strelitzia reginae (bird of paradise)
- **Succulents**: Aloes, Crassulias, Euphorbias, Sedums, Senecios, Kalancheos, Cotyledons, Portulacaria and countless more
- **Trees**: Calodendrum capense (Cape Chestnut), Cussonias (Cabbage Tree), Dombeyas (Snow Ball Tree), Erythinas (Coral Tree), and Podocarpus.

Let’s Talk Plants! June 2016, No. 261

San Diego Horticultural Society
Edmond Albius
By Carol Buckley

Emond Albius’s story begins with the Cortés expedition in Mexico in the 1520s and the “discovery” of the vanilla orchid (Vanilla planifolia). Native to Mexico, the fruit of this orchid was grown by the Totonac people of the Veracruz tropical highlands, who used the cured pods to pay tribute to Moctezuma. Bernal Díaz, chronicler of the Spanish expedition, mentioned the use of tilaxchital (“black pod”) in the Aztec leader’s chocolate drink. The Spaniards returned to Europe with gold, cacao, and vanilla.

Hoping to increase production of vanilla, the French imported the orchids to islands in the Indian Ocean, including Madagascar and Réunion. They faced one drawback: fertilization. Lasting only a day, if not fertilized within 8 to 12 hours the orchid bloom perishes without producing fruit. In Mexico, the orchids are pollinated by the small Melipona bee, the only insect able to travel up the deep flower. Although hermaphroditic, the vanilla orchid cannot self-fertilize because a thin membrane, or rostellum, makes it impossible for the anther to reach the stigma.

On Réunion island, in 1841, Edmond Albius, a 12-year-old slave, who never knew his father and whose mother died while giving birth to him, solved the problem. His master, French colonist Féréol Bellier-Beaumont, was fond of the bright boy and took him on his rounds around his plantation, where he was growing many of the 10-foot-tall vanilla orchid vines. One day, Edmond adapted a technique for hand pollinating watermelon for the vanilla orchid. He used a blade of grass or thin stick to lift the rostellum out of the way and, with his thumb, transferred pollen from the anther to the stigma. He showed Beaumont the vanilla pod that had grown and his method—more expedient than that used by a renowned Belgian botany professor in the 1830s—set off the global vanilla industry.

By finding a way to fertilize the orchids, Albius helped the French build a lucrative business, but he did not reap any benefits. A French horticulturist falsely claimed he had taught Albius the fertilization method, and though Albius’ ownership of discovery was backed by Beaumont and other naturalists, Albius received no monetary profit.

He was freed from slavery in 1848 and worked as a kitchen servant. He fell in with a bad crowd in St. Denis and was arrested for stealing jewelry. Sentenced to ten years in prison, Albius was defended by Beaumont, who cited the prosperity he had brought to the island. His sentence was commuted to five years. Albius died penniless in 1880.

It took posterity to honor Edmond Albius: on Réunion island there is a statue of him on the spot where he first fertilized the vanilla orchid. 

First published in Album de l’Ile de la Réunion (volume III - 1863)

The Secret Life of Flowers
By Anne Ophelia Dowden

Last month I wrote about finding three books on a sale table at Second Hand Prose in Coronado. This month I’ll tell you about two of them. The reason these books appealed to me is that the charming illustrations reminded me of the types of sketch books that upper class Victorian ladies, including Queen Victoria herself, were taught to create as part of their formal education. A woman in one of my classes is writing a book on local shells. I thought these books might provide ideas that would be useful for her.

The Secret Life of Flowers is tiny—only four inches high by six-and-a-half inches wide and 48 pages long. You wouldn’t believe it’s possible to pack as much information in that space as Dowden does, and it’s all about s-x! Well, yes, it’s flower sex, but still… More specifically, it’s about pollination and pollinators, including bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, moths, birds, and the occasional mammals such as bats, opossums, and flying squirrels. (Bet you just learned something new.) Even if you think you know all about the birds and the bees, there’s much to learn here.

This is one of ten books Dowden, who lived from 1907-2007, both authored and illustrated. She also illustrated books for other authors. Reviews say her books were designed for young people, but I think the prose is technical enough that it’s more suited to adults. The illustrations, though, will appeal to all.

Good Bugs for Your Garden by Allison Mia Starcher is slightly larger, approximately five by seven inches and 54 pages. The format is different, too. Starcher covers six types of “helpful bugs,” including damselflies, dragonflies, and praying mantids; true bugs and thrips; lacewinged insects and beetles; bees and wasps; flies; and spiders, mites and other helpful creatures. Each example get one full page which manages to include, besides the illustrations, a description, habits, favorite prey, and favorite plants in the habitat. Along with all that, Starcher manages to pack in a glossary, a list of references, and a list of retail sources.

Her main goal is to familiarize people with the idea that there is such a thing as “good bugs.” For those of us who are dedicated gardeners, this isn’t a new concept, but there are still many people who spend time and money buying chemicals that will wipe out all the insects in their gardens.

Starcher lives and gardens in Los Angeles, so this book is particularly relevant to us. I think it would be a good handbook to use when teaching a child about helpful insects. The drawings are detailed enough to allow identification of larva and adults, and the prose is accessible.

By Allison Mia Starcher
Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Good Bugs for Your Garden
By Allison Mia Starcher

By Allison Mia Starcher

By Carol Buckley

Good Bugs for Your Garden
By Allison Mia Starcher

By Anne Ophelia Dowden

First published in Album de l’Ile de la Réunion (volume III - 1863)
The Dirt on Water Blog

Garden Rocks are Drought Tolerant

By Jeanne Meadow

In past articles I explained my plan to reduce the size of my garden to save water and reduce the amount of maintenance. I received a few inquiries as to how did it go? Are you happy with it? How hard was it? What does it look like? So here it is.

The first area was up against the house and the plants were mostly Protea and some lavender. I really wish I took before pictures. We dug them all up and attempted to replant some of the Protea in an area that gets runoff from our avocado grove, but sadly only one is alive. These two photos show what it looks like now.

The second area was on the south side of the house and was mostly succulents. This area was a lot of work with no value....who goes there? The rabbits and squirrels don’t need their own garden. We pulled up all the plants and potted them in the kajillion plastic pots I had been saving for some strange reason. Do you do that or am I the only one? I had a big plant sale and then traded the rest for some landscape planting services for a few other problem areas. A win-win.
GOING WILD WITH NATIVES
A Word About Weeds
By Pat Pawlowski

“In al gardeins, some flowers, some weeds.” This is a quote by John Lyly (1579). As we look at my own garden in 2016, we see that some things never change. But this is not necessarily a bad thing; the common name of a plant may include the word “weed” in it, and still be good.

Can you monarch butterfly people think of the most obvious one? (See the answer at the end of this article.)

Besides the aforementioned unnamed “weed,” here are some more to consider adding to your garden beds:

Deerweed (Lotus scoparius) – Host to the leprechaunishly green Bramble Hairstreak butterfly, many times spotted on St. Patrick’s Day. Note: Despite its name, Deerweed will NOT attract flocks of deer, which can ruin your garden quicker than you can say “Bambi.”

Butterweed (Senecio flaccidus var. douglasii) – This is among the most popular nectar-producing plants that attract butterflies and other beneficials.

Cheeseweed (Malva parviflora) – Oh no! Cheeseweed is not a native of California, and many gardeners rush to yank it out of their gardens. However, it is a host plant for a bouquet of beautiful butterflies: Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady, West Coast Lady, and the White-checkered Skipper. Also, have you ever on a cool overcast gray morning wished that your breakfast egg was a delightful pink, instead of the same old boring white? Let your chickens eat Cheeseweed, and their eggs will have pink whites (say what?). However, your newly colorful egg will not taste cheesy; Cheeseweed gets its name from its cute fruits, which resemble small round cheeses.

Cudweed Aster (Lessingia filaginifolia = Corethrogyne filaginifolia) – A perennial with violet-colored daisy flowers, Cudweed is a host for the Gabb’s Checkerspot butterfly. You may not get to see Mr. Gabb, but will enjoy seeing his small sprightly checkered butterfly.

Parish’s Locoweed (Astragalus douglasii) – You can avoid being placed in a straitjacket by planting this perennial. Of course, you may get the Blues, such as the Silvery Blue butterfly, the Melissa Blue, and the Western Tailed Blue. If blue is not your color, you may like the gorgeous yellow Harford’s Sulfur butterfly. All of these butterflies will lay their eggs on your Locoweed.

To sum up, here are some reasons not to pull certain weeds: (1) They are energy-saving; yours). (2) They are amusing. Just sit back and watch the butterfly show. (3) They are easy care; you don’t have to water and fertilize them, they’ll come up anyway. (4) They are educational. How? By telling us that labels do not define us. We are more than our names, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. To a monarch butterfly, a milkweed (Asclepias spp.) is probably the most beautiful plant on this earth.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who has learned to love her weeds (at least some of them).$$

TO LEARN MORE...
Kew Gardens
By Ava Torre-Bueno

Our beautiful zoo, whose horticultural staff is this year’s Horticulturalist of the Year (see pages 3 and 7), is doing many great things to conserve plants. Since I wrote about our zoo two months ago, and since I’m going to London this summer, this little article will be about Kew Botanical Gardens.

A short history starts here: aviewoncities.com/london/kewgardens.htm

Kew is so remarkable that it’s a UNESCO World heritage site: whc.unesco.org/en/list/1084

To see many, many pictures of Kew Gardens, go to instagram.com/kewgardens/?hl=en

On the Kew website there are numerous resources. Start at the Science & Conservation page (kew.org/science-conservation) and hover over “Kew Science” for a dropdown menu which includes fascinating videos like The Plant Family Tree video: kew.org/science-conservation/plants-fungi/plant-family-tree

Or view a BBC radio program with video, Plants: From Roots to Riches: kew.org/science-conservation/plants-roots-to-riches/episode-4

Episode 4 is a visit to the Fungarium, but you can watch them all. Cheerio!.$$
Horticulturist of the Year
2016:

Since 1996, the San Diego Horticultural Society has been proud to recognize someone as our Horticulturist of the Year for her or his lifetime of achievement and service in horticulture in Southern California. Some previous honorees include Walter Andersen, Pat Welsh, founder Don Walker; Vince Lazaneo, Steve Brigham and, in 2015, Kathy Puplava, first Balboa Park Horticulturist (a complete list is on page 11). In 1997, we recognized the late Charles Coburn, who was the Director of Horticulture for the Zoo. This year, which is the Centennial of the San Diego Zoo, our award goes to the horticultural staff, past and present, of the Zoo and the Zoo’s Safari Park. They will be recognized at our June 13 SDHS Night at the Fair; details on this exciting event are on page 1 and our website, sdhort.org. Congratulations to all the Zoo Horticultural Staff!

Mike Letzring, horticulture collections manager at the San Diego Zoo, inspects a rare Encyclia citrina (tulip orchid), at the Zoo’s Orchid House. It is one of the 949 types of unique orchids you can see at the July 11 SDHS Night at the Zoo.

Below: Succulents at the Safari Park.

Horticultural Staff of the San Diego Zoo,
Past and Present
By Wendy Perkins, Staff Writer,
San Diego Zoo Global

Over the first 100 years of San Diego Zoo Global’s existence, an international botanical treasure sprouted and spread. In 1919, Zoo founder Dr. Harry Wegeforth rode his Arabian horse around the arid, barren, and hilly acreage set aside for the future Zoo, using his walking cane to plant tree seeds as he went. Acacia, pepper, and eucalyptus were some of the first trees planted. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Zoo received many gifts of plants from wealthy families.

During the 1940s, the Zoo cultivated its own Victory Gardens to provide vegetables for its growing collection of animals. Beginning in the 1980s, plants at the Zoo became more than just beautiful and educational—they were increasingly used to provide species-appropriate food for the animals (including eucalyptus for koalas, acacia for giraffes, and Eugenia for primates) and structures for exhibits, whenever possible. In addition, the Browse Team cuts, prepares, and ships ficus and eucalyptus to zoos across the nation that are unable to grow their own.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the organization’s botanical efforts spread to Escondido and the development of the Wild Animal Park (now the San Diego Zoo Safari Park). In addition to landscaping for comfort and enjoyment of both animal and human visitors, a knoll once covered with sumac and chaparral underwent a tree-lined transformation to become the Nicholas T. Mirov Conifer Arboretum. Named after the noted plant physiologist and biochemist, the five-acre arboretum’s goals were the acquisition, propagation, and exhibition of conifer trees from around the world, including rare and endangered species.

An Old World Succulent Garden, Baja Garden, and Nativescapes Garden soon filled another hillside, thanks to the energy of volunteers from local horticultural clubs. Partnerships with these types of organizations allow the Park to share the beauty and wonder of bonsai creations and epiphyllums with millions of guests each year.

In 1993, the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park collections were accredited by the American Association of Museums. This was cause for jubilation, since they were only the sixth and seventh zoos to ever receive this recognition. A great deal of work went into preparing for the accreditation process for each of San Diego Zoo Global’s designated collections. Every plant in the designated collections was identified, mapped, and accessioned. It was a gargantuan task. Each plant received a record including its accession number and botanical name, the date it was acquired and the source, and its location on grounds.

The Zoo’s accredited collections are of acacia, aloe, bamboo, cycads, erythrina, ficus, orchids, and palms. In addition, the grounds are home to a number of geographical and developing collections that are not formally accredited, such as hibiscus, pachyforms, and flora of Hawaii, Australia, Africa, and Madagascar.

The Safari Park’s accredited collections include the Baja Garden, Nativescapes Garden, and Conifer Arboretum. The Park also hosts the Bonsai Pavilion, with an outstanding collection of bonsai plants maintained by volunteers from San Diego Bonsai Club and San Pu Kai Bonsai Club.

Both the Zoo and Park have incredible teams of horticulturists who tend to the botanical collection as well as travel worldwide to collect plants for conservation, to prevent species extinction. A micropropagation lab at the Zoo aids in this effort, and the staff has traveled to teach people in remote areas how to propagate and conserve species.

San Diego Zoo Global’s wildlife conservation efforts have long included plants, as well as animals. The botanical focus of the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research is on sustainability and restoration of native ecosystems, seed science, habitat monitoring and management, plant-animal interactions, and recovery programs for rare and endangered species. Projects link applied research, conservation outreach, education, and capacity-building activities to support conservation and...
Alice looked through the looking glass and arrived at a secret garden in South Africa. She spotted a mushroom-shaped gazebo made of twisted branches and vines. Inside was an old weathered tree stump table with hot tea in a tiny elephant-shaped pot. Fresh flowers were growing out of the stump. There was a path up to the gazebo of giant tree trunk slices.

Inside the gazebo, she found two stone seats to sit on. Hanging String-of-Pearls (Senecio rowleyanus), String of Hearts (Ceropegia woodii), and String of Bananas (Senecio radicans) hung down from vine baskets. Orange and yellow Black-eyed Susan vine (Thunbergia alata) climbed up the tree trunks of the gazebo.

Behind her were giant Cabbage Trees (Cussonia spicata), African Tulip Trees (Spathodea campanulata), big tree aloes and other aloes of all kinds. She saw the most mysterious flowers called Proteas. There were blue agapanthus in three sizes, and many geraniums (Pelargonium spp.). Small succulents of all kinds were close by; some even looked like rocks growing in rocks, and some looked like baby toes (Fenestraria spp.).

“Oh, my,” she said at this charming sight. Little Pickles (Othonna capensis) covered the ground around the rocks. There was a weaver bird nest in the trees, and even hummingbird nests.

“Oh my, who created this Secret Garden?” It is really a Wonderland. And she sat and sipped her hot tea waiting for her new friend... We look forward to seeing you at our garden! 🌹

Continued on page 16
Trees, Please
The Not So Silent Witness
By Tim Clancy

You are no doubt familiar with the concept of annual tree rings. These rings are formed in many woody plants each year as the plant creates new wood as part of its growing process. Trees in temperate climates display the most dramatic rings due to the temperature changes associated with those climates. While in many cases these rings can indicate a year of growth, in other cases the rings are not so conclusive. Close examination of the rings will help determine if there are any incomplete, or even what is referred to as false rings.

Dendrochronologists have developed many research methods for using tree rings, and tree ring dating is seen as a reliable method to get a view to our past. It is contemporarily used in climate research and this is perhaps the most well-known use of the science. Building history, the accurate dating of paintings from the 14th to the 17th century, and the validity of radiocarbon dating are some ways in which tree ring dating has been used.

A fascinating and gruesome murder case was also solved using tree ring dating and an analysis of the wood produced by tree near where the murder took place. In 1981, a married woman went missing from her farm. Her husband admitted that they had been in an argument that day but claimed the last he saw of her she was driving off down the road. Her vehicle was later found abandoned across state lines. The woman was never found and due to a lack of evidence (no body, no blood or evidence of foul play in her vehicle) the investigation stalled.

Fast forward three years to 1984. A private detective hired by the family of the missing woman tracked down the former girlfriend of the deceased woman’s husband. (They were having an affair while he was married to the dead woman.) The girlfriend was the classic woman scorned. (The murder motive was money and she didn’t get to share in the fortune.) She told a horrific story of murder and cremation that was hard to believe. The husband had used diesel fuel to dispose of his dead wife’s body. He committed the deed on the banks of a river under a maple tree. The annual flooding of the river had washed away any evidence that may have remained in the soil. Tree branches were cut and analyzed. The forensic arborist confirmed that three years prior the growth rings of the tree indicated an unusual event had occurred near the tree. The tree branches were then analyzed in a gas chromatograph, which proved the presence of hydrocarbons found in diesel fuel. This was enough to convince two juries that the former girlfriend was telling the truth and the husband was convicted of murder.

Yet another fascinating use of tree ring dating to arrive at the truth!

Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #WE-0806A. Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at treemanagers@gmail.com.
The Plants Start To Go In! Part 2

This is a continuation of columns from the September, October, and November 2015 newsletters about filling in our swimming pool and replacing it with a garden. The previous articles were about the construction and garden hardscape. Last month I started to write about the planting of the former pool area, which began in late winter of 2003 with the delivery of many succulent plants.

The Aloe plicatilis has grown to about 3 feet by 3 feet and sends up lots of inflorescences with candy corn-like flowers late each winter.

Originally there were two Kalanchoe beharensis, but one died a few years ago. The remaining one leans over a bit towards the fountain, with two large knobby seven-foot long trunks topped by very large triangular shaped fuzzy leaves. I've debating removing it...but so far it has survived being edited out.

Planted near the walkway, the Agave bracteosa was the highlight of the garden for a number of years. With its long recurved spider-like leaves it looked as though it was going to pull itself out of the garden and walk away. For many years it pupped like crazy and I started many new plants and gave countless others away. It started changing from green to purple and sent up a massive bloom several summers ago. It was fascinating to watch it grow and unwind each day. The final bloom stalk was about 8 feet tall and covered with yellow flowers. Today, a remaining pup grows out vertically between the blocks of the retaining wall, and I still have many more pups in pots and the garden.

There was another unknown hybrid garden aloe in the area that bloomed with yellow and red flowers in the spring, but as the garden filled in it became too shady for it, and it was relocated to the garden down the hill. I replaced it with a nice green cycad that looks like a palm. Each year it sends up a big set of new fronds and is now about 6 feet tall and wide. In a slightly sunnier spot, an Aloe ferox was planted, and has gotten quite large and blooms reliably in early winter.

I used the local rocks as mulch between the plants. Over the years many other succulents, annuals, bulbs and perennials have come and gone. Today there remain several South African bulbs and smaller aloes and other succulents as groundcovers. More recently, I've been planting lots of different species of brightly colored bromeliads.

On the wall at the back of this garden I originally planted a Thunbergia 'Blushing Susie'. I loved the multicolored flowers, but was surprised to find out that it produced viable seed that came up all over the garden. I removed the plant and have been trying to eliminate the seedlings for years. Today it is replaced with an Australian Hibbertia scandens vine, which blooms annually with nice big clear-yellow flowers.

Originally, just to the west of this area outside the pool wall was a Monterey pine tree. It looked like it had been a live Christmas tree that was planted in the ground. It grew quickly and was starting to shade the area. It rained pine needles continually which took hours of time to pick up from between the plants. It eventually got both white mildew and the borer; so became an eyesore and was removed and replaced by two tall Euphorbia ingens. These quickly grew to 30 feet. However, half rotted and fell over in the wet winter of 2010. The remaining plant has a significant lean away from the constant sea breeze. I cut out about half of the plant trying to right it last year. However, the 70 mph windstorm this January snapped off about half of the remaining arms. I'm still trying to determine whether to leave it or replace it with something else that can better tolerate the windy location.

Jim Bishop is President of San Diego Horticultural Society and a Garden Designer.
Welcome New Members

We encourage our 1200+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. A warm hello to these new members:

We welcome Hydro-Scape as our newest Sponsor; visit them at www.hydroscape.com.

Ian Cole          Ellyn Hartman
Jessica Colton    Clara Laursen
Debbie Handal    Evan Mix & Kayla Page

Hort Bucks are GREAT!
Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2016; they earned Hort Bucks worth $5 towards name badges, garden tours, dues and more! To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Karen Bacei (1)   Brett Ecker (1)  Toni Muncell (2)  Linda Teague (1)
Gail Bakker (1)    Dave Ericson (2)  Arline Paa (1)    Tere Trout (1)
Debra Lee Baldwin (2) Sue Lasbury (1)  Mo Price (1)    Marcia Van Loy (1)
Ken Blackford (1)  Cheryl Leedom (1)  Stella Ramos (1)  Christine Vargas (1)
Lorraine Bolton (1) Maria Mata (1)    Sue Ann Scheck (1) Mary Vaughn (1)
Kathee Closson    Alice Dukelow (1)  Sterling Tours, Ltd. (1) Wishing Tree Company (1)
Debra Lee Baldwin
Gail Bakker (1)
Karen Baccei (1)
Debra Lee Baldwin (2)
Ken Blackford (1)
Lorraine Bolton (1)
Kathee Closson
Alice Dukelow (1)
Julian Duval (1)

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Tejes Trivedi
The Wishing Tree Company
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Weidner's Gardens
Westward Expos

Life Members  *Horticulturist of the Year (names in bold have ads)

*Walter Andersen (2002)
*Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper
*Bruce & Sharon Askawa (2010)
*Chester Band
*Debra Lee Baldwin
*Steve Baum
*Laurie Carroll

Dexter Budner Design Group
Julian Duval (2014) & Leslie Dual
*Edward Engen (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquet
Caroline James
Joyce James
Debbie & Richard Johnson
*Vince Lazaro (2004)
*Brad Monroe (2013)

*Bill Nelson (2007)
*Deborah & Jack Rade
*Kathy Rubbica (2015)
*Tina & Andy Ralston
*Jon Retman (2011)
*Mary Rodriguez
*Peggy Rush
*San Diego Zoo Horticultural Staff (2016)

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center
*San Diego Zoo Horticultural Staff (2012)
José Torre-Bueno
Dorothy L. Walker
Lucy Warren
*Tina Weidner (2001)
*Patty Welsh (2003)
*Betty Wheeler

Discounts For Members
(see ads for more discounts)

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. (www.briggsstreet.com; tell them to look up the “San Diego Hort Society Member” account).

Get a 10% discount at San Diego Botanic Garden on Family/Dual or Individual memberships. Just state you are a current member of SDHS on your membership form. It cannot be done online, so mail it in or bring it to the Garden. Info: Chelsea Rubino, crubino@SDBGarden.org.


Let’s Talk Plants! June 2016, No. 261

What’s Up at San Diego Botanic Garden

Enrich Your Life!
Take a Class at San Diego Botanic Garden

As summer begins, our education classes at San Diego Botanic Garden really heat up! This month, we are offering our extremely popular Living Wall/Vertical Garden class taught by the Garden’s own Mary Lou Morgan. Be sure to sign up early for this one, being held on Saturday, June 4. We also have classes on putting together a summer hydroponic garden, creating your own “soul collage,” and another Garden favorite, Chef Elizabeth's Food & Wine pairing cooking class. Register today at SDBGarden.org/classes.htm or call 760/436-3036 x 201.

LIVING WALL/VERTICAL GARDEN: Learn the basics of planting a living wall/vertical garden and make your own 10” x 20” garden to take home with you. Saturday, June 4, 9 am – 1 pm.

BUILD YOUR OWN HYDROPONIC GARDEN: Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method by building your own sustainable garden to take home. Saturday, June 11, 9 am – 1 pm.

THE MIND’S EYE: USING SOUL COLLAGE TO DISCOVER YOUR HIDDEN CREATIVITY: Discover how the poetry of images can uncover hidden resources and activate key brain areas to expose your hidden creativity. Saturday, June 11, 9:30 am – 4 pm.

FOOD & WINE PAIRING WITH THE OPERA SINGING CHEF: Sweet Tomato Bruschetta, Slow-cooked Italian Beef, and sweet Panettone Bread is on the menu. Saturday, June 25, 2-4 pm. 
threatened habitats.

Our Native Plant Seed Bank aims to conserve the diversity of San Diego County’s flora by drying and freezing seed for long-term storage. Each seed collection conserves the invaluable genetic material of thousands of individuals from a plant population. Over 550 such collections reside in the freezers at the Beckman Center and the Botanical Conservation Center, representing over 375 unique plant taxa.

Beginning this year, the Center for Plant Conservation will now be based in San Diego, with John Clark, Ph.D., serving a dual role as president of the Center for Plant Conservation and director of plant conservation for San Diego Zoo Global.

Plants and landscapes can unite communities and inspire a love of the natural world. Our zoological gardens were created by generations of passionate plant people, and with strong community support. Over the decades, these horticultural accomplishments have inspired people and influenced horticultural advancement. In the next century, horticulture will continue to advance, and will remain an important element of San Diego Zoo Global’s efforts to end extinction.
Let's Talk Plants!
June 2016, No. 261

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Garden Design and Maintenance
Sharing Secrets
Edited by Dayle Cheever

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we’ll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874. Also, you can continue the discussion by adding new replies online to Sharing Secrets topics. Here’s your chance to comment on how the plants you mentioned two years ago are doing today, or to suggest another way to do something in the garden.

The question for June was: What tips can you provide to our members about successfully growing roses in containers?

Bea Ericksen: I would prefer roses be planted in the ground, they just do not get enough water in a container. (I have 95 roses.)

Stephen A. Zolezzi: Roses do just fine in a container so long as they are watered 2 to 3 times a week, depending on the weather. Use a rich planting mix (A-1 soil, Queen of Show mix), re-pot every 2 to 3 years and trim roots, apply top dressing yearly, fertilize every 4 to 6 weeks during growing season, deadhead as needed, and check for bugs, much like any other potted plant. Right?

Catherine Tylka: Roses in big containers are a piece of cake. They love being in big, red clay planters with drip pans. Water to your heart’s content, but stop when the drip pan is full. They can live with only a once a week watering, and I put them on the back porch, under the lattice and they are thriving! I am growing Mr. Lincoln, Betty Boop, and Cupcake. (zip code 92026)

Dwyn Daniels Robbie: One of the key elements to growing good roses in pots is the ability to change out the soil every three years, at least. Using the best quality soil is also important. I use Queen of Show mix from Hanson’s and add more perlite, worm castings, powdered kelp and essential minerals. If you don’t replace the soil, my observation...
Jim Bishop: Don't! Unless you are in love with roses, absolutely have to grow them, and only have a small, sunny patio or balcony to grow things, you should consider growing something else in containers. Here's why: Roses require regular water (even more in containers) and should never be allowed to fully dry out. They require regular maintenance and even so will be dormant or not in bloom several months of the year. They need to be cut back after each bloom cycle. They need regular feeding to continue growing and blooming. They also will likely need sprays or systemic pesticides to control disease or bugs. They will likely be short lived in pots or start performing poorly after a few years and need replacing with new plants or new soil after a few years. Instead, consider growing something that is easier to maintain and needs less water: First on the list would be succulents or one or more of the many colorful members of the bromeliad family. If you want year-round bloom, many of the *Euphorbia milli* hybrids or related cultivars can last decades in a pot, aren't anymore thorny than many roses, and won't mind if you miss a watering or two. Another option for the same amount of water and care: you can grow all your own salad greens in a few pots.

Winnie Krushensky: I'm just learning myself!

Gay Sinclair: I have pretty good luck growing roses in big ceramic pots, about 22” in diameter by 23” in height. I put something in the bottom so there is good drainage. My patio is fairly sheltered and gets lots of sun. They are thirsty. Each January when I prune them and remove all the leaves and old mulch, I soak the plants and ground with a pre-emergent spray. Then I give them some new potting soil, 1/2 cup of Epsom salts, and new bark mulch. I have each container on a small trolley so they are moveable, and rotate them about once a month to distribute the sun evenly. I soak egg shells in water and as the jar fills up, pour the water on a few plants. This is sort of random, but an old lady friend when I was a kid did that and her roses were beautiful, so I do it. I also feed them every 4-6 weeks, starting in February, usually with Bayer's weed and feed. I think about being organic, but this gets such good results, I just use it most months. I choose plants for their fragrance and then color. I live near the beach in La Jolla, so if mildew is a problem with a particular bush, no matter how fragrant it is, it has to go. I try to pick off yellow leaves as they appear. After a few months they get unshapely, as I like to cut them and am not always concerned with the overall shape. But they bloom from mid- to late February thru December, so they must be happy.

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Available late April 2016. Quality softcover, retail (est.) $39.00. Please contact the author at Solana Succulents if you’d like to pre-order.

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APLD—Where Residential Landscape Design Begins
May 2016 Plant Display

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Did you bring a plant to the May meeting that isn’t listed here? If so, please send the name of the plant and any comments in an email to newsletter@sdhort.org.

There were more plants brought in to the meeting than the few listed here, but, unfortunately, before we could collect the plant information cards, someone took home (or discarded) all the cards. Please leave those cards on the plant display table so that we can list all the plants in the newsletter and on the website. Thanks!

What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. All plants are welcome. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

Join the fun and bring something to the next meeting. We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

Now available FREE on our website – all 21 years worth of plant descriptions! Go to tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions.

Calothamnus villosus  SILKY NET BUSH, WOOLLY NET BUSH
(Myrtaceae)  Australia
This unusual evergreen shrub from the south-western part of western Australia has foliage reminiscent of pine needles, and grows to about 4-6’ tall and 6-8’ wide. The new foliage has a red tinge, and mature leaves are green. It has unusual 1”-long red flowers (reminiscent of bottlebrush blooms) with very long stamens, which are borne from winter to early summer; they arise directly from the woody stems, and attract ants in my garden. Grow it in full sun to part shade; drought-tolerant once established. According to the website for Australian Native Plants (australianplants.com), this species is grown commercially for the cut foliage.  (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/16) – S.T-B.
**Echeveria compressicaulis** (Crassulaceae) Venezuela

According to San Marcos Growers (smgrowers.com), “The genus Echeveria was named to honor Mexican botanical artist Atanasio Echeverría y Godoy in 1828 by the French botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (DeCandolle) who was very impressed with Echeverría’s drawings. Echeverría had accompanied the the Sessé and Mociño expedition (led by Martin de Sessé y Lacasta and Mariano Mociño Suárez de Figueroa) while exploring Mexico and northern Central America and had produced thousands of botanical illustrations. The genus Echeveria is a member of the large Crassula family (Crassulaceae), which has about 1,400 species in 33 genera with worldwide distribution. Echeveria, with approximately 180 species, are native to mid to higher elevations in the Americas with the main distribution in Mexico and central America but with one species found from as far north as southern Texas and several species occurring as far south as Bolivia, Peru and possibly Argentina.”

The *Echeveria compressicaulis* displayed forms attractive rosettes of brown-green leaves to about 6” tall and wide. In winter to spring it has pumpkin-orange bell-shaped flowers that are a nice contrast to the glossy foliage; the flowers are borne on stems that rise to about 10” above the basal rosette. In my garden the flowers have appeared from December through May. It does well in full sun to light shade and needs very little water to thrive. This is probably a recently-discovered species. According to the November 2002 issue of *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine*, “Based on material collected in the Venezuelan state of Mérida, *Echeveria compressicaulis* (Crassulaceae) is described as a new species.”

(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/16) – S.T.B.

**Salvia `jamensis ‘Bob & Ernie’** (Lamiaceae) Hybrid

**Salvia `jamensis ‘Golden Girl’** (Lamiaceae) Hybrid

**Salvia `jamensis ‘Monika’** (Lamiaceae) Hybrid

**Salvia `jamensis (dark purple)** (Lamiaceae) Hybrid

**Salvia `jamensis (pink/red bicolor)** (Lamiaceae) Hybrid

**Salvia `jamensis (salmon)** (Lamiaceae) Hybrid

What a fascinating hybrid! *Salvia greggii* hails from 5000’ to 9000’ high in Southwest Texas into the Mexican Chihuahan deserts, and *Salvia microphylla* is native to southeastern Arizona and many mountainous parts of Mexico. According to Betsy Clebsch, writing in her excellent reference *The New Book of Salvas*, “Both these species hybridize freely, and James Compton… has given the name *Salvia xjamensis* to a hybrid swarm of *S. microphylla* and *S. greggii* found in the wild.” Clebsch further notes that this swarm was described by Compton in the early 1990s. Clebsch notes that *Salvia xjamensis* “is a shrub, usually under 3 ft in height and width. Some plants are more rounded in shape than others. Small, glossy green, ovate leaves, usually less than 1 in long, lightly cover the shrub… Flowers may be found in many shades of red, rose, rose-pink, orange, salmon, or pale yellow, and some are bicolored.” Also, “In 1988, Yucca Do Nursery found plants of what is now known as *Salvia xjamensis* in the wild. Selections were made and introduced in their 1991 catalog…” Many colorful selections are available now, and thrive in full sun with very little water. In my garden I have found they do best with severe pruning in early winter; I purchased these four 1-gallon plants from the U. C. Riverside fall plant sale (a very highly recommended extravaganza) in October 2015. The first blooms started in March in my garden, and they should bloom through fall. *Salvia xjamensis ‘Bob & Ernie’* has magenta flowers; *Salvia xjamensis ‘Monika’* has purple and red flowers; *Salvia xjamensis (pink/red bicolor)* has soft red and pink flowers; *Salvia xjamensis (salmon)* has salmon orange flowers. *Salvia `jamensis ‘Golden Girl’* (purchased in 2011 from U. C. Riverside) has soft yellow flowers (see smgrowers.com for a good description). *Salvia `jamensis (dark purple)** (purchased in 2009 from U. C. Riverside) has magenta flowers (it might have been mis-labeled) and has slowly spread to about 1-2’ tall x 5-6’ wide. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/16) – S.T.B.

In addition to the plants described above, the plants listed below were displayed; all have been previously described.

What’s that in front of the plant name? Plants marked 3 are fully described in the SDHS Plant Forum Compilation, available online for FREE at tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions.

*Can you spot the phony plant this month?* The phony plant in the May newsletter was *Rosa ‘Boogaloo’*.

3 **Puya alpestris** SAPPHIRE TOWER (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/16)

3 **Puya preposterous** TOURMALINE TOWER (Plant Lover, El Cajon, 5/16)
Bromeliads in the Wild
By Ellie Knight

Our speaker, Dennis Cathart of Tropiflora Nursery, started Tropiflora (tropiflora.com) in the early ‘70s as an outgrowth of a bromeliad collecting hobby. A “hobby gone bad,” he says. Following years of collecting reptiles and traveling the Caribbean and Latin America, he discovered bromeliads, and the direction of his life was changed forever. Collecting and exploring in the plant world were always his first interests and over the years he has visited 27 countries on more than 100 trips and expeditions. Tropiflora now has about 1.5 million plants, of 7,000 varieties.

Bromeliads are found only in the New World and occur in the U.S. from Virginia along the coast to Texas and in all other countries from Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean and even the Galapagos Islands. Extremely adaptable, bromeliads fill nearly every niche over their range and grow from sea level to above 12,000 feet. The greatest majority of bromeliad species occur in the tropics. However, they also occur in sub-tropical areas such as Florida where there are 23 different species (Texas has 4.) Bromeliads sizes vary from under an inch to over a ton and 25 feet tall. They live in sun, shade, on more than 100 trips and expeditions. Tropiflora now has about 1.5 million plants, of 7,000 varieties.

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Let’s Talk Plants!
June 2016, No. 261
San Diego Horticultural Society

SDHS Nametags
Sturdy magnet-back nametags are just $10
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or buy one at any monthly meeting.

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Water Blog
Continued from page 5

Mexican art

These photos show the finished project.

I chose the rocks from Southwest Boulder & Stone (see page 12) in Rainbow. Their selection is amazing! This was the hardest part. Deciding color, shape, size and most difficult ... how many! The staff was extremely helpful. I gave them the measurements of the two areas and they helped with the math part. They loaded up the car with the green and black rock, and scheduled delivery for the rust, purple, and tumbled gravel.

I knew I wanted it to be a permeable surface. I also wanted it to be easy and fast so we opted not to cement any in place. This saved lots of time and lots of money. Plus I might change my mind. And I was able to re-use the pallets by painting them and blocking the view of the junk storage area on the side of the house.

Saving water one rock at a time!
Visit my blog at TheDirtOnWater.com to read my latest rants or contact me at Jeanne@jeannemeadow.com.

Mexican art

The rock pathway.

Detail of different kinds of rocks used.
Events at Public Gardens

♦ Alta Vista Gardens  Contact info on other side
  June 12, 2-3 pm: Meet the Artist reception for Ricardo Breceda, creator of life-size sculptures of prehistoric animals & other fabulous creatures (as seen in Borrego Springs & also at Alta Vista Gardens). Info: www.altavistagardens.org

♦ San Diego Botanic Garden  Contact info on other side
  June 2 – Aug. 25: Thursday Family Fun Nights. Pack up the kids and enjoy some outdoor fun at Thursday Family Fun Night, every Thursday from 4:30 – 8 pm. From 6-7 pm don’t miss family-friendly entertainment designed to amuse both children and adults. Free with paid admission or membership.
  June 4, 9 am -12 pm, Living Wall / Vertical Garden: learn the basics of planting a living wall. We will be planting a 10”x20” wall with a variety of succulents. Living walls can be used exterior or interior with multitudes of colors, textures and sizes. The possibilities of striking patterns and unique designs are endless. Cost: Members $30, non-members $36 plus $70 per student materials paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by: May 27.
  June 11, 9 am – 1 pm, Build Your Own Hydroponic Summer Garden: Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method by building your own sustainable garden to take home. Instructor: Alex Kallas of AgPALS. Fee includes materials. Cost: Members $80, non-members $96. Please register by May 27.

♦ The Water Conservation Garden  Contact info on other side. For ALL events below, register online or at (619) 680-0614.
  Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.

Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors
  Please thank them for supporting SDHS!
  ♦ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops
  ♦ City Farmers Nursery – see www.cityfarmersnursery.com
  ♦ Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar Details in left column
  ♦ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month
    June 18, 10:30am-noon: Growing Alstroemeria and Other Unique and Rare Perennials. Speaker: Liz Youngflesh, Master Gardener and owner of Garden Glories Nursery. RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or roy@sunshinecare.com. www.sunshinecare.com. See ad page 13.
  ♦ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes
    Details at www.walterandersens.com; address in ad on page 16.
    Point Loma, 9am
    Poway, 9:30am
  June classes TBA at both locations.
  ♦ Weidner’s FREE Events
    June 18 & 19, Begonia Festival, Weidner’s annual begonia festival is a weekend of fun and savings! Come see all of our beautiful begonia varieties, in addition to the rest of our great spring and summer color. 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. Info: www.weidners.com, (760) 436-2194.

Next SDHS Meeting
  June 13:
  SDHS Night at the Fair

Free Monthly Seminar

Starting at 10am at two locations: Carmel Valley and Oceanside

June 4, Summer Color & Fragrances for your Garden
You will be amazed at the many different choices of color and fragrances for your garden. Learn how to choose the right color for your yard and your micro-climate.

Each FREE seminar is approximately 1 hour long. Come to the location nearest you! Refreshments will be provided. Seminar attendees receive a coupon for an instant discount for any purchases made the day of the seminar!

To view our entire seminar schedule and check our hours of operation, visit us at

www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to:
info@evergreennursery.com

What’s Happening? for JUNE 2016
The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhort.org.
Other Garden-Related Events:
Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

Visit the SDHS Display Garden at the San Diego County Fair from June 3 to July 4

June 4 (10am-5pm)  7 June 5 (10am-4pm), San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show Sale: Exotic & collectible plants from around the world. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: www.sdcss.net. (see insert in May newsletter)


June 8, 7:30pm, Epiphyllum Society: General meeting. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: www.sandiegoepi.org or (310) 833-6823.

June 15, 6pm, San Diego Floral Association: Laura Eubanks presenting “Creating Succulent Tapestry in the Garden.” 6:00 pm; Dinner & Social Hour; 7:00 pm: Program. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: www.sdfloral.org


June 21, 7:30-9pm, How Argentine Ants Devastate Native Landscapes, California Native Plant Society: Greg Rubin speaks about this pest. “Argentine ants and their symbiotic sucking insect partners may have been a key factor in high native mortality nearly as long as natives have been a popular gardening subject in California. Ornamental horticultural methods may have inadvertently promoted their spread over the years. Localized moisture saturation, rich organic soils, poor quality mulches, and high levels of disturbance are all factors that promote their spread. This talk will cover how to recognize the problem, the damage ants do, the weeds they plant, and strategies to deal with these insidious pests.” New feature: Bring your native plant(s) to be identified. Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: www.cnpssd.org.


Do you belong to a club or organization whose events aren’t listed above?
For a FREE listing (space permitting) send details by the 10th of the month BEFORE the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhort.org.

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit www.sdfloral.org/calendar.htm

Resources & Ongoing Events:

ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: members/free; non-members/$5. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: www.avgardens.org or (760) 945-3954.

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: (formerly QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS): Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: $14/adults, $10/seniors, $8/kids 3-12; parking $2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.SDBGarden.org.

THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN: Open 9-4 daily. FREE. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:00am. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org.


SAN ELIO LAGOON CONSERVANCY: Free 90-minute public nature walk 2nd Saturday of each month start at 9:00 am. Call (760) 436-3944 for details.


WILDFLOWER HOTLINE: March to May call the Theodore Payne Foundation hotline: (818) 766-5353 for info. on blooms in Southern California and elsewhere; visit www.theodorepayne.org.

BALBOA PARK:
Offshoot Tours: FREE: 1-hr walking tour in Balboa Park every Sat., 10am. Meet at Visitors Center; canceled if rain or less than 4 people. (619) 235-1122.

Botanical Building is one of the world’s largest lath structures, with 1200+ plants and lavish seasonal displays. FREE. Open Friday–Wednesday, 10am to 4pm.

Botanical Library: Room 105, Casa del Prado, Mon.-Fri. and first Sat., 10am-3pm, FREE. Info: (619) 232-5762.


Balboa Park Ranger Tours: FREE guided tours of architecture/horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays, 1pm, from Visitors Center. Info: (619) 235-1122.

San Diego Natural History Museum: Exhibits, classes, lectures, etc.: (619) 232-5421; www.sdnhm.org.

S.D. Zoo: Garden day 3rd Friday of every month from 10am. Pick up schedule at entry. Info: (619) 231-1515, ext 4306; www.sandiegozoo.org.

Garden Radio Shows:

Garden Compass Radio Show (local), Saturday 9–10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

GardenLife Radio Show (national), Saturday 8-9am and Sunday 8–10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. Hear it streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. GardenLife shows are also archived at www.lifestyletalkradio.com.

San Diego County Farmers Markets
www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php